Preliminary Results of 1995 Suisun Marsh Fish Study

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In 1995, UC-Davis staff, under contract to DWR, conducted 245 otter trawls at 21 sites in Suisun Marsh. The four-seam otter trawl, with a 1 X 2.5-meter opening, a length of 5.3 meters, and 6-mm mesh in the bag, was towed for 5 minutes in smaller sloughs and 10 minutes in the larger (Suisun and Montezuma) sloughs, as described in Meng *et al* (1994).

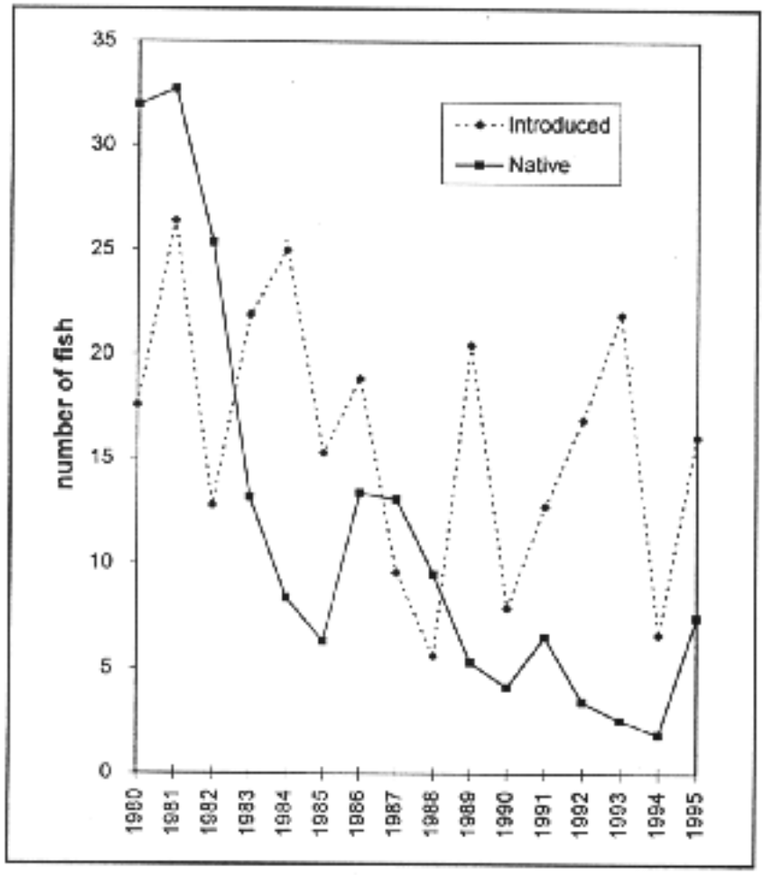

Figure 1
Mean Catch per Trawl of Native and Introduced Fishes in Suisun Marsh

In 1995 we saw more than twofold increases in catch per trawl of both native and introduced fishes compared to 1994. Although there were about twice as many introduced fish as there were natives, we found more native fishes than we had since 1988 (Figure 1). Longfin smelt catches improved slightly, exceeding those of the past 4 years, but only two delta smelt were caught in the trawls all year (Figure 2). Striped bass catches rebounded after 2 years of decline (Figure 3), and catches of young-of-the-year splittail were the highest since 1986 (Figure 4).

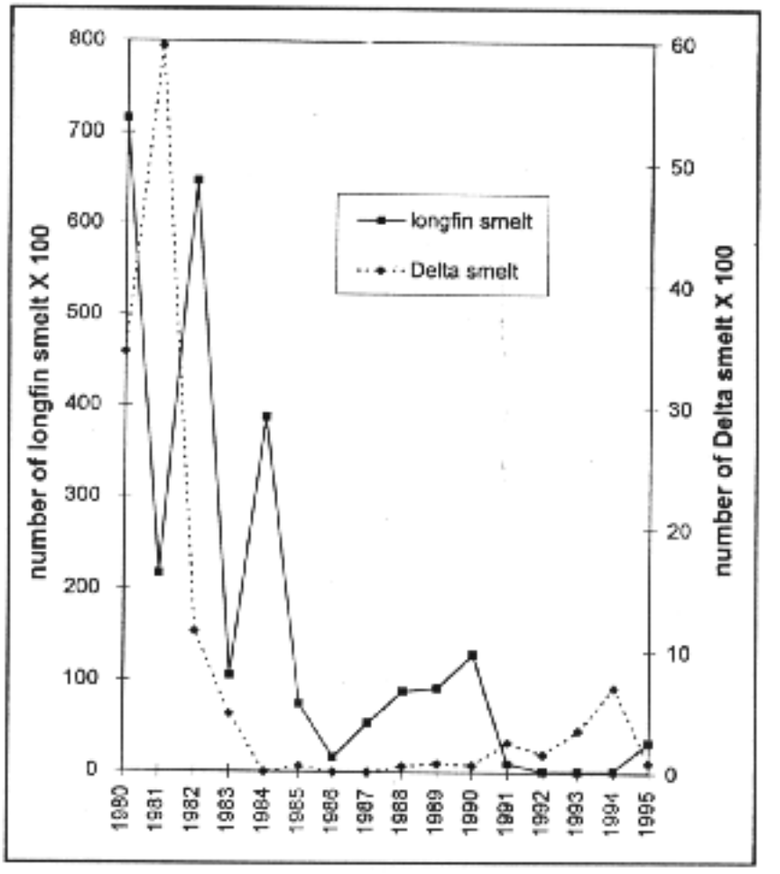

Figure 2
Mean Catch per Trawl of Longfin Smelt and Delta Smelt

Literature

Meng, L., P.B. Moyle, and B. Herbold. 1994. Changes in abundance and distribution of native and introduced fishes of Suisun Marsh. *Transactions of the American Fisheries Society* 123:498-507.